## 5/8/2006

To Whom it May Concern:

The American Legion is a diverse organization representing members who are military veterans from a wide range of cultures and ethnic groups, with a worldwide presence. It has posts, chapters, and clubs in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and in several foreign nations including: Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom. The American Legion is the largest veterans service organization.

Since its inception in 1919, the American Legion has never discriminated against gender, race, creed, or national origin. Its membership eligibility is, in fact, based solely on honorable military service. As a diverse organization, the American Legion supports House Bill 5633 calling for English as the official Language of Michigan.

Michael L. Williams State Legislative Chairman American Legion, Department of Michigan